

Amendments to the Claims:

The below-listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. As presented, claims 1-20 are canceled. Claims 21-40 are new.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) A computer system, comprising:

a directory shell able to reference two or more disparate directories each having a directory class, the directory class in one of the directories being dissimilar in directory objects and data from the directory class in another of the directories;

an administrator utility with the directory shell configurable to associate the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories, the result of associating the directory classes being a user-searchable category; and

a directory browser with the directory shell whereby users can search the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the user-searchable category.

22. (New) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the two or more disparate directories are managed on a plurality of servers in communication with a computer onto which the directory shell is loaded.

23. (New) The computer system of claim 21, further including a directory interface operable to send the single query to the two or more disparate directories.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 23, further including a director driver for each of the two or more disparate directories to allow the directory interface to communicate therewith.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the user-searchable category includes a category attribute mapped to one or more class attributes of the directory class.

26. (New) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the directory browser includes one of a list panel and a details panel where users can view search results of the single query.

27. (New) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the administrator utility further includes a table for associating the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories.

28. (New) A method of searching in a computer system, comprising:
providing a directory shell with an administrator utility and a directory browser for loading onto a computer;
enabling the administrator utility to associate directory classes of two or more disparate directories into a single user-searchable category; and
from the directory browser, enabling direct searching of the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the single user-searchable category.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the enabling further includes mapping a category attribute of the single user-searchable category to one or more class attributes of the directory class.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, further including displaying search results of the single query on a panel of the directory browser.

31. (New) A computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 28.

32. (New) A computer system, comprising:

a directory shell for loading on a computer in communication with one or more servers having two or more disparate directories each with a directory class, the directory class in one of the directories being dissimilar in directory objects and data from the directory class in another of the directories, the directory shell having an administrator utility and a directory browser;

a table in the administrator utility configurable to associate the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories, the result of associating the directory classes being a user-searchable category;

a query portion in the directory browser whereby users can directly search the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the user-searchable category; and

a panel in the directory browser where users can view search results of the single query.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the query portion and the panel are on a same page of the directory browser.

34. (New) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the table includes one or more check boxes for the associating of the directory classes.

35. (New) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the table includes an enable column to indicate directory classes associated with the user-searchable category.

35. (New) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the administrator utility and directory browser is formatted to be displayed in HTML format.

36. (New) A method of searching in a computer system, comprising:
creating a single user-searchable category from directory classes of two or more disparate directories; and
directly searching the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the user-searchable category, the directly searching substantially avoiding creating or using a virtual directory.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the creating further includes associating, in an administrator utility, the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the creating further includes creating additional user-searchable categories for additional directory classes of the two or more directories.

39. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the creating further includes providing a directory shell for loading on a computer in communication with one or more servers having the two or more disparate directories.

40. (New) A computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 36.